

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

performing an automated security scan of a second network device by a first network device to determine at least one of a hardware or software capability of the second network device;

determining an attribute for the second network device based, in part, on the determined capability;

generating an attribute certificate for the second network device based in part on the attribute;

storing the attribute certificate including the attribute on a device other than the second network device; and

receiving, at the first network device, an authentication request from the second network device for access to a resource over a network;

verifying the authentication request from the second network device, or else terminating communication with the second network device;

responsive to a ~~verified~~ verifying the authentication request from the second network device ~~for access to a resource over a network,~~ the first network device requesting and receiving from the other device the stored attribute certificate for the second network device; and

the first network device determining whether the stored ~~received~~ attribute certificate for the second network device is valid, where if the ~~stored~~ attribute certificate is determined valid, authorizing access to the resource over the network based, in part, on the attribute associated with the attribute certificate, or else ~~denying access to the resource for~~ terminating communication with the second network device.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute is further determined based, in part, on a condition to be satisfied.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the attribute is further associated with a group of network devices~~ where the validity of the received attribute certificate is based on factors comprising at least one of a date range of the attribute certificate, a digital signature on the attribute certificate, and a comparison of an identity listed in the attribute certificate with the verified authentication request.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute is further associated with at least one of a group of users and a group of network devices.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute certificate is generated by at least one of the first network device, an access server, and an attribute authority.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute certificate is stored in at least one of the first network device, and an attribute repository.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the attribute certificate is provided to an access server through the use of at least one of a cookie, a program, and a manual upload.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an interface configured to perform an automated security scan of a network device to determine at least one of a hardware or software capability of the network device;

a processor configured to determine an attribute for the network device based, in part on the determined capability;

the processor further configured to generate an attribute certificate for the network device based, in part, on the attribute;

~~a memory~~ the interface configured to store the attribute certificate including the attribute

on a device other than the network device; and

the processor configured to receive an authentication request from the network device for access to a resource over a network;

the processor configured to verify the authentication request from the network device, or else to terminate communication with the network device;

responsive to a ~~verified~~ verifying the authentication request from the network device ~~for access to a resource over a network~~, the processor and the interface further are configured to request and receive from the other device the stored attribute certificate for the network device; and

the processor is configured to determine whether the ~~stored~~ received attribute certificate for the network device is valid, where if the ~~stored~~ attribute certificate is determined valid, the processor is configured to authorize access to the resource over the network based, in part, on the attribute associated with the attribute certificate, or else to ~~deny access to the resource for~~ terminate communication with the network device.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the processor is further configured to generate the attribute certificate based on a condition to be satisfied.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein ~~the processor is further configured to generate the attribute certificate based on the automated security scan of the network device~~ the validity of the received attribute certificate is based on factors comprising at least one of a date range of the attribute certificate, a digital signature on the attribute certificate, and a comparison of an identity listed in the attribute certificate with the verified authentication request.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the interface is further configured to send the attribute certificate to an attribute repository to be stored.

14. (Currently Amended) A device for managing authorization to a resource over a network,

comprising:

means for performing an automated security scan of a network device to determine at least one of a hardware or software capability of the network device;

means for determining an attribute for the network device based, in part, on the determined capability of the network device;

means for generating an attribute certificate for the network device, wherein the attribute certificate is based in part on the attribute;

means for storing the attribute certificate on a device other than the network device; ~~and~~

means for receiving an authentication request from the network device for access to a resource over the network;

means for verifying the authentication request from the network device, or else terminating communication with the network device;

means, responsive to a ~~verified~~ verifying the authentication request from the network device ~~for access to a resource over a network for determining whether~~ requesting and receiving from the other device the stored attribute certificate for the network device;

means for determining whether the stored ~~received~~ attribute certificate for the network device is valid, where if the ~~stored~~ attribute certificate is determined valid, and

means for authorizing access to the resource over the network based, in part, on the attribute associated with the attribute certificate, or else for ~~denying access to the resource for~~ terminating communication with the network device.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, where the means to perform an automated scan comprises an interface; and the means for determining, generating, storing, and means responsive comprises a central processing unit coupled to the interface and further coupled to a memory.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program executable by a processor to perform actions comprising:

performing an automated security scan of a network device to determine at least one of a hardware or software capability of the network device;

determining an attribute for the network device based, in part, on the determined capability;

generating an attribute certificate for the network device based in part on the attribute;

storing the attribute certificate including the attribute on a device other than the network device; and

receiving an authentication request from the network device for access to a resource over a network;

verifying the authentication request from the network device, or else terminating communication with the network device;

responsive to a verified authentication request from the network device ~~for access to a resource over a network~~, requesting and receiving from the other device the stored attribute certificate for the network device; and

determining whether the ~~stored~~ received attribute certificate for the network device is valid, where if the ~~stored~~ attribute certificate is determined valid, authorizing access to a resource over a network based, in part, on the attribute associated with the attribute certificate, or else ~~for denying access to the resource for~~ terminating communication with the network device.